

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the section entitled “Abstract” of the specification with the enclosed replacement abstract.

A Secure File Distribution Network (SFDN) method and computer system that allows copyrighted digital works to be sold securely by independent sales parties. ~~The system referred to as the Secure File Distribution Network (SFDN),~~ and ensures that all creators and distributors of the copyrighted digital data work are paid all royalties and fees owed to them, regardless of who is selling the copyrighted digital data work and without damaging their fair use rights. ~~The VA~~ A verification authority tracks is responsible for keeping track all buyers, sellers and merchantable digital works being traded on the file sales network, ~~A merchantable work is described as any copyrighted digital work that is being sold on the file sales network. The VA is responsible for matching matches~~ buyers with sellers, and ~~providing~~ provides a digital works search service for users of the system so that merchantable works can be found easily. Once a merchantable digital work is located in a desired media format, and at an attractive price, a buyer and seller can negotiate a secure transaction. Once the secure transaction is completed using the SFDN, ~~(ie: a buyer has the digital media purchased), the VA~~ verification authority will distribute distributes payments to the seller and all creators involved in a particular work. Thus ~~a considerably more useful file distribution and royalty disbursement system provides~~ the SFDN provides content creators ~~creator~~ security in earning a living ~~from creative works~~ while not impinging on consumer's ~~consumer~~ fair use rights.

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